

CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET

10

COVER SHEET ONLY

AD/OSA

DAD/OSA

EO/OSA

AD/OSF

**T  
A  
L  
E  
N  
T**

"THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS  
INFORMATION AFFECTING  
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF  
THE UNITED STATES WITHIN  
THE MEANING OF THE ESPIO-  
NAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, USCA,  
SECS. 793 & 794, THE TRANS-  
MISSION OR REVELATION OF  
WHICH IN ANY MANNER TO  
AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON  
IS PROHIBITED BY LAW"

**HANDLE BY TALENT  
CONTROL CHANNELS  
ONLY**

(CONFIDENTIAL)

CLASSIFICATION TOP SECRET

TCS-3500/64  
2 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission T284A, Flown on 24 May 1964

1. This mission covered the area of Central Tibet from the northwest corner of the Northeast Frontier Agency (NEFA) as far west as the Lhasa/Katmandu (Nepal) road. A total of 16 COMOR targets were covered by generally excellent quality photography. No significant items of immediate intelligence value were reported.

2. Airfield coverage was confined to the Heiho and Lhasa installations. Heiho's 12,150 foot sod strip, which the Indians continue to maintain is one of the two fields from which the Chinese air threat is likely to come, appears unserviceable and abandoned. The Lhasa field, although 52 miles north of the capital, is the main air supply point for that city. It is also a major barracks area. Two small unidentified aircraft were photographed on this mission.

3. A total of 9 barracks installations were photographed, 4 of them, including 1 under construction, in the Lhasa area. Two of the 9 areas, at Goreng and Jih-Ko-Tse show no change from previous coverage. The Ting-Jih Army barracks (Tingri-Dzong) appear from the photography to be associated with road and bridge construction on the east and west edges of Ting-Jih. This area is also thought to be the base of the 5th Border Defense Regiment. A four gun antiaircraft site is located in the Lhasa Headquarters area. The barracks area under construction west of Lhasa consists of 21 barracks (1 under construction), one administrative building under construction, 3 support buildings, 160 tents and 13 building foundations. Three suspect military areas were also photographed, but no evidence of any activity was found.

4. Three storage and supply areas were covered on this mission. The Tsona depot, adjacent to the northwestern corner of NEFA contains a probable POL storage area and approximately 50 tents of all sizes. An early warning radar site was noted just north of this complex. Tsona was an important Chinese base in the recent border fighting. Approximately 260 trucks were photographed in

-2-

the main Lhasa supply depot, a decrease of about 150 from previous photography.

5. Road construction on the Lhasa/Katmandu (Nepal) road is continuing. This project, first agreed to in late 1961, involves the expansion and improvement of an existing road between Tibet and Katmandu to a double lane highway. Despite Chinese reports that the road is completed to Kodari, considerable construction is still required. For example, the Ting-Jih bridge is in an early stage of construction and has only 3 piers in place. In the area between Niehlamu and the Nepal border a total of 15 workcamps and 7 major areas of construction were noted. In a 10 mile stretch north of Niehlamu there are 7 workcamps apparently engaged in work on culverts and single span bridges.

6. Vehicle convoy activity included 2 convoys, one of 40 trucks and the other of 31, headed south to Lhasa, possibly from the airfield. Three other convoys, of 27, 8 and 16 trucks, were seen in the Ting-Jih area, possibly in support of the road construction going on there.

7. As on several occasions in the past, New China News Agency (NCNA) broadcast a report on this mission (in English on international links) as an intruding Indian Air Force aircraft bent on "prolonged reconnoitering and harassing activities."

25X1D

25X1C

25X1C

25X1A

covered an area generally east of the one covered in this mission. In the absence of other indicators of Chinese Communist activity and given the results of this and previous missions,

CAS Division